

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Vehicle information collection system and method thereof

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A vehicle information collection system having
a unit mounted on a vehicle for collecting vehicle
information to be transmitted to an information center
which provides services based on the collected vehicle
information, the vehicle information collection system
10 comprising:

an operation input equipment of the information
terminal of the unit mounted on a vehicle or a user
for inputting information specification of the vehicle
information to be transmitted to the information
15 center;

means for storing the inputted vehicle information
into the unit mounted on the vehicle;

means for recording the vehicle information of the
vehicle carrying the unit according to the stored
20 vehicle information specification; and

means for transmitting the stored vehicle
information to the information center.

2. A vehicle information collection system
according to Claim 1, wherein the unit mounted on the
25 vehicle receives from the information center the

vehicle information specification preset from an external information terminal, and the received vehicle information specification is displayed on the display equipment of the unit mounted on the vehicle.

5 3. A vehicle information collection according to Claim 1, wherein the time period is transmitted or recorded is determined by the operation of direction means installed on the vehicle mounted unit or the status of a vehicle having reached a point of meeting
10 a predetermined condition when the vehicle information collected by the unit mounted on the vehicle.

 4. A vehicle information collection system according to Claim 1, wherein the information center, , based on the information specification of the
15 predetermined vehicle information, and bills the user calculates service charges when providing a user with services.

 5. A vehicle information collection system according to Claim 1, wherein when information
20 specification has been selected, charges or discount rates thereof are displayed on the output equipment or information terminal of the unit mounted on the vehicle, and the charges or discount rates thereof are adjusted in conformity to the setting operation based
25 on the information.

6. A vehicle information collection system having
a vehicle mounted unit for collecting vehicle
information to be transmitted to the information
center for providing services based on said collected
5 vehicle information, the vehicle mounted unit
comprising:

operation input equipment for inputting the
information specification of the vehicle information
to be transmitted to the information center installed
10 by a user;

storage means for storing the inputted vehicle
information specification;

recording means for recording the vehicle
information on the car carrying the unit in a vehicle,
15 based on said stored car information specification;
and

communications means for transmitting recorded
vehicle information to the information center; and

a display equipment for displaying vehicle
20 information specifications.

7. A vehicle information collection system
according to Claim 6, wherein the vehicle information
specification is received by the communications means
from the vehicle mounted information center and the
25 received vehicle information specification is

displayed on the display equipment when the vehicle information specification has been set from an external information terminal,.

8. A vehicle information collection system
5 according to Claim 6, wherein the vehicle mounted unit has additional direction means for specifying the time period for transmitting or recording the collected vehicle information, and the vehicle information is recorded in said recording means, based on the
10 operation of said direction means.

9. An information center for providing services based on said collected vehicle information, the information center further comprising:

a vehicle information specification database for
15 storing the specification of the vehicle information, wherein the information specification is transmitted from the unit mounted on a vehicle or the information terminal of a user and is transmitted to the information center;

20 a vehicle information database for storing the vehicle information transmitted from a vehicle having the unit mounted thereon; and

a content database for storing service contents created based on the history of information on the car
25 according to the stored vehicle information; wherein,

when services are provided to a user, service charges are calculated according to the information specification of the stored vehicle information for said user, and the user is billed accordingly.

5 10. A vehicle information collection method for a vehicle having a unit mounted on a vehicle which collects vehicle information to be transmitted to an information center for providing services based on the collected vehicle information, the vehicle information
10 collection method comprising :

 storing the information specification of the vehicle information input from an operation input equipment of the unit mounted on a vehicle and transmitted to the information center;

15 storing the vehicle information of the vehicle carrying the unit mounted on a vehicle, according to the stored vehicle information specification;

 transmitting the stored vehicle information to the information center.

20 11. A vehicle information collection method according to Claim 10, wherein when the information specification of vehicle information has been inputted from an external information terminal, the information specification is received through the information
25 center, and the received vehicle information